

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or the complement of said nucleic acid sequence.
2. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is ~~selected from the group consisting of DNA or~~ RNA.
3. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence ~~an open reading frame~~ that encodes a mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or its complement.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence of which is ~~SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23-170 of SEQ ID NO: 2.
6. (Previously Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide has a single conservative amino acid substitution relative to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, or its complement.
7. (Previously Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said stringent conditions comprise hybridization in a high salt buffer comprising 6X SSC, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA, and 500 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 65°C.
8. (Previously Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said stringent conditions comprise hybridization in a high salt buffer comprising 6X SSC, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA, and 500 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 65°C.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
11. (Currently Amended) An isolated cell comprising the vector of claim 10.
12. (Currently Amended) The isolated cell of claim 11 wherein said cell is a ~~prokaryotic or~~ eukaryotic cell.
13. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 and a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable~~ carrier.
14. (Currently Amended). A process for producing a the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, said process comprising:

a) providing the isolated cell of claim 11, wherein said isolated cell comprises a vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) culturing said cell under conditions sufficient to express said polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

c) recovering said polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2,

thereby producing said polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 14, wherein said cell is a ~~prokaryotic or~~ eukaryotic cell.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (New). The isolated cell of claim 11, wherein said cell is a prokaryotic cell.

19. (New) The process of claim 14, wherein said cell is a prokaryotic cell.